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## **New Sales Tax Tool To Reduce Retailer Errors and Consumer Complaints**

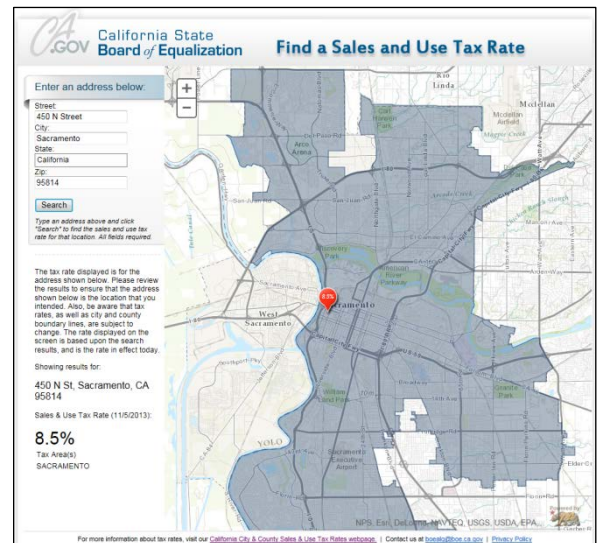
**Sacramento** – The California State Board of Equalization unveiled an easy-to-use, [online mapping tool](#) that will help prevent consumers from being overcharged sales tax.

Using the mapping service, retailers simply enter an address, and the service pin-points the location on a map and provides the sales and use tax rate at that address. It also shows the entire area where that rate applies.

Sales and use tax rates vary widely across California, and can change over time. Retailers can easily find the current tax rate at a specific location using this new service. It helps to ensure that their customers pay the correct amount of tax.

“With many different local sales tax rates across the state, it can be very difficult for retailers and consumers to find the correct rate for their area,” said Vice Chair Steel. “This new tool will help businesses and consumers determine accurate sales tax rates across the state and reduce erroneous charges.”

In addition to the statewide sales and use tax rate of 7.50 percent, some cities and counties have voter approved district taxes. Multiple district taxes may also be in effect at a specific location. More than three-fourths of all businesses in the state are located, or do business, in areas with a district tax. The highest sales and use tax rate in California is currently 10.00 percent in the Los Angeles County cities of La Mirada, Pico Rivera, and South Gate.



For more information about sales and use tax rates, including help for consumers who have been overcharged, visit [www.boe.ca.gov/knowyourrate](http://www.boe.ca.gov/knowyourrate).

This service was jointly developed with the [California Department of Technology](#).

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Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006 and re-elected in 2010, Michelle Steel serves as *Southern California's elected taxpayer advocate*. In December 2007, Steel discovered the Board of Equalization had delayed the return of millions of dollars in security deposits owed to California businesses. Procedures were changed due to Steel's decisive leadership. Following her investigation, the tax agency refunded tax security deposits to over 5,500 small businesses. To date, over \$100 million in security deposits have been returned to taxpayers.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects \$52.5 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit [www.taxes.ca.gov](http://www.taxes.ca.gov).

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